

MISCELLANY

Under this department are ordinarily grouped: News Items; Letters; Special Articles; Twenty-Five Years Ago column; California Board of Medical Examiners; and other columns as occasion may warrant. Items for News column must be furnished by the fifteenth of the preceding month. For Book Reviews, see index on the front cover, under Miscellany.

NEWS

Coming Meetings†

California Medical Association. Session will convene in Los Angeles. Dates of the seventy-fifth annual session, to be held in 1946, will be announced later.

(For other comment re Annual Session, see page 244.)

American Medical Association. The 1945 Session, previously scheduled for Philadelphia, will not be held. See J.A.M.A., January 20, 1945.

The Platform of the American Medical Association

The American Medical Association advocates:

1. *The establishment of an agency of Federal Government under which shall be coordinated and administered all medical and health functions of the Federal Government, exclusive of these of the Army and Navy.*

2. *The allotment of such funds as the Congress may make available to any state in actual need for the prevention of disease, the promotion of health, and the care of the sick or proof of such need.*

3. *The principle that the care of the public health and the provision of medical service to the sick is primarily a local responsibility.*

4. *The development of a mechanism for meeting the needs of expansion of preventive medical services with local determination of needs and local control of administration.*

5. *The extension of medical care for the indigent and the medically indigent with local determination of needs and local control of administration.*

6. *In the extension of medical services to all the people, the utmost utilization of qualified medical and hospital facilities already established.*

7. *The continued development of the private practice of medicine, subject to such changes as may be necessary to maintain the quality of medical service and to increase their availability.*

8. *Expansion of public health and medical services consistent with the American system of democracy.*

(Note: For interpretative comments, see J.A.M.A., June 24, 1944, pp. 574-576.)

Medical Broadcasts*

The Los Angeles County Medical Association:

The following is the Los Angeles County Medical Association's radio broadcast schedule for the current month, all broadcasts being given on Saturdays:

KFAC presents the Saturday programs at 10:15 a. m., under the title, "Your Doctor and You."

In May, KFAC will present these broadcasts on the following Saturdays: May 5, 12, 19, and 26.

The Saturday broadcasts of KFI are given at 9:45 a.m., under the title, "The Road to Health."

"Doctors at War":

Radio broadcasts of "Doctors at War" by the American Medical Association is on the air each Saturday at 1:30 p.m., Pacific War Time.

† In the front advertising section of *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, various rosters of national officers and organizations appear each week, each list being printed about every fourth week.

* County societies giving medical broadcasts are requested to send information as soon as arranged.

Pharmacological Items of Potential Interest to Clinicians*:

1. *Antibiotics:* R. T. Fisk, A. G. Foord and G. Alles show prolongation of penicillin action on IM injection by adding epinephrin (*Science*, 101:124, February 2, 1945). R. L. Libby notes stability of penicillin salts in cottonseed oil suspension and relatively persisting therapeutic blood level (0.05 units/cc.) from oral administration, even with impure samples (*Ibid.*, p. 178, February 16, 1945). Then W. M. Parkins & Co. say gelatin with vasoconstrictor adds to prolonged penicillin level after IM injection (*Ibid.*, p. 203, February 23, 1945). While C. D. Armstrong & Co. say 5 per cent dextrose is potent prolonging vehicle for IM injection (*Proc. Soc. Exp. Biol. Med.*, 58:74, 1945). C. J. H. Little and G. Lumb recommend giving penicillin orally with egg white, after dose of antacid (*Lancet*, 2:203, February 17, 1945). I. N. Asheshov and F. Strelitz isolate material from *Aspergillus fumigatus* active vs. *M. tuberculosis* (*Science*, 101: 119, February 2, 1945). G. Schwartzman finds amino acids antagonize penicillin action vs. gram-negative bacilli (*Ibid.*, 276, March 16, 1945). B. Puetzer & Co. finally synthesize clavacin (*Ibid.*, 307, March 23, 1945). J. Charney & Co. report antacids aid gastric absorption of penicillin (*Ibid.*, 251, March 9, 1945). J. M. Bahn & Co. produce in vitro penicillin resistant gonococci with structural changes (*Proc. Soc. Exp. Biol. Med.*, 58:21, 1945). B. F. Chow and C. M. McKee think chemical inactivation of penicillin by cysteine is due to sulphydryl and amino groups (*Ibid.*, 177). Then there's a couple little symposia on penicillin (*U. S. Naval Med. Bull.*, 44:453-493, 1945) (*Brit. Med. J.*, 107-114, January 27, 1945, including L. P. Garrod on activity on bacteria), and a neat new brochure by Merck. When will silly secrecy on constitution be relaxed?

2. *Symposia:* Fairly comprehensive on rheumatic fever, with much on control programs (*J. Pediatrics*, 26:209-264, 1945). Interesting on sterility (*Med. J. Austral.*, 2:129-145, February 10, 1945). Anxious on deceleration of medical training program (*J. Asso. Amer. Med. Coll.*, 20:65-82, 1945). Anonymous, but well organized and illustrated are various War Dept. Technical Manuals, such as one on *Educational Reconditioning*. M. Fishbein edits one on *Medical Uses of Soap* (Lippincott, Philadelphia, 1945, \$3).

3. *Books:* E. C. Crocker's *Flavor* is intriguing (McGraw-Hill, N. Y. 18, 1945). Blackwell's of Oxford have many new musts: H. J. B. Atkins' *After-Treatment* (18s, 2nd Ed., 1945); D. N. Matthews' *Surgery of Repair of Injury and Burns* (45s, 1945); R. R. MacIntosh's *Local Anesthesia* (10s 6d, 1945). Have you the seven experimental biology monographs issued by Macmillan's (60 5th Avenue, N. Y., 11)? E. Vasconcelos (Sao Paulo) writes best *Methods of Amputation* (Philosophical Lib., N. Y., 1945, \$10). F. F. Chidester offers *Nutrition and Glands in Relation to Cancer* (Lee Fd. Nutritional Research, Milwaukee, 1944, \$3). Harvard Press issues revised edition K. Landsteiner's classic *Specificity of Serological Reactions* (Cambridge, 1945, \$5). L. H. Crisp

* These items submitted by Dr. Chauncey D. Leake, formerly director of the University of California Pharmacologic Laboratory, now dean of the University of Texas Medical School, Galveston, Texas.

writes *Essentials of Allergy* (Lippincott, Philadelphia, 1945, \$5). N. F. Conant's *Manual of Clinical Mycology* looks good (Saunders, Philadelphia, 1945, \$3.50). Williams & Wilkins offers maternal health conference on *The Abortion Problem* (Baltimore, 1945). R. Wartenberg's *Examination of Reflexes* looks helpful (Year Book Pub., Chicago 4, 1945, \$2.50). R. A. Moore's Pathology also looks well (Saunders, Philadelphia, 1945, \$10). A Gesell's *The Embryology of Behavior: the Beginnings of the Human Mind* is a must (Hoebner, N. Y. 16, 1945, \$5).

4. *Et Alia*: Those interested in A. Aperia's important posthumous review of the kinetics of the peripheral vascular system (*Texas Rep. Biol. Med.*, 3:1, 1945) will find lots more similar material of value in the recently available *Hemodynamique et Angiocinetique* of D. M. Gomez (Paris, Hermann, 1941). E. J. Carey & Co. continue stimulating studies on ameboid motion and secretion of motor end plates in shock (*J. Neuropath. Exp. Neurol.*, 4:134, 1945). R. T. Simmons shows that most Indonesians are Rh positive (*Med. J. Austral.*, 2:108, February 3, 1945). E. H. Ackerknecht tells a pertinent story in *Malaria in the Upper Mississippi Valley, 1760-1900* (*Suppl. 4, Bull. Hist. Med.*, Baltimore, 1945). P. O. Wolff's historical sketch of pharmacology (*Sem. Med.*, Buenos Aires, 1944) is O.K., but uses old Prolegomenon (*University Calif. Pub. Pharmacol.*, 1:1, 1938), without credit. W. Ganado discusses clinical characters of pain (*Brit. Med. J.*, 2:141, February 3, 1945). F. L. Meleney reviews prevention of infection in wounds and burns by use of sulfonamides (*SG&O*, 80:263, 1945). W. S. Hartroft and C. C. Macklin find lung alveoli average 0.025 sq.mm. in area (*Trans. Roy Soc. Canada*, 3rd Ser., 37:51-81, 1944). C. A. Ross and E. J. Poth suggest traces of acrolein in oxidized cod liver oil may confer reputed antibacterial effect (*J. Lab. Clin. Med.*, 30:226, 1945).

"Outlook for Women in Occupations in the Medical Services."—The heavy wartime demand for trained therapists has led the Women's Bureau of the United States Department of Labor to bring two brochures off the press. Bulletin 203 No. 1 is captioned "Physical Therapists"; Bulletin 203 No. 2 has title "Occupational Therapists." Copies of the bulletins may be secured by writing to the Director of the Women's Bureau, Frieda S. Miller, U. S. Department of Labor, Washington 25, D. C.

San Francisco County Society Phone Service Breaks Own Record.—The all-time record for calls to the San Francisco County Medical Society's 24-hour telephone service was broken again in February.

During February, a total of 1,321 callers asked to be recommended to physicians, 803 during the daytime and 518 at night—topping by 56 the previous record just established in January, 1945.

February also saw the biggest one-day number of daytime callers—a total of 71 calls.

Continued growth of the service, now in its third year, is evidence of its value both to newcomers to San Francisco and to old-time residents whose own doctors have gone to war.

The telephone service is available day and night, every day in the year, including Sundays and holidays. Callers are given their choice of three physicians, and specialists are recommended when need for them is indicated. The number is WALnut 6100.

The County Medical Society asks that callers have paper and pencil ready before calling, to take down

names and addresses. Physicians are not dispatched to inquirers, but prospective patients must make their own arrangements with one of the persons recommended to them. For night callers, the service suggests physicians living as near as possible to the inquirer.

Society for the Prevention of Asphyxial Death.—This organization was incorporated in 1933 and its aims and purposes were approved by the American Medical Association in June of the succeeding year. The S.P.A.D., with offices at 38 East 61st Street, New York 21, is a charitable organization. Concerning the work of the organization, the *Westchester Medical Bulletin* of January, 1945, under the caption, "A Dual Problem: Asphyxia and Resuscitation" made comment. An excerpt from the article follows:

The stark reality of 50 000 deaths a year from asphyxia raises serious question as to whether our approach to this problem is thoroughly up-to-date. These deaths fall into two categories: (1) those that no plan of anticipation could offset, and (2) those that could be prevented by anticipation, education, regulation, and by the prompt and proper treatment of the patient at the time of the asphyctic emergency. It is the size of the latter group that lends support to those who argue that the challenge of asphyxia has not been met.

Responsibility for this situation is widespread; it involves professional, industrial, governmental, public health and emergency groups so thoroughly that, at present, it must be shared by all.

As in the field of Public Health the best treatment for this national "disorder" is still prevention. In this respect industry both independently and under government regulation has turned in a job that can withstand considerable scrutiny.

Berkeley Hospital Prints Interesting Brochure for Staff Members.—The Berkeley Hospital *Bulletin*, issued by the Berkeley Hospital of 2001 Dwight Way, Berkeley 4, enclosed with the issue of April 13th, an illustrated reprint from *Fortune* magazine. Explanatory statement from the *Bulletin* follows:

"U. S. Medicine in Transition."—*Fortune* magazine published an excellent article on this subject in the issue of December, 1944. It puts the question, "Will voluntary doctor-patient coöperation head off the trend toward Federal insurance?" A reprint of the article is enclosed and well merits your reading.

American Board of Ophthalmology.—The American Board of Ophthalmology will hold an examination at Los Angeles in January, 1946, at the time of the Mid-Winter Course.

Applications for this examination must be filed before September 1st.

For details, prospective candidates should write at once to Dr. S. Judd Beach, Secretary, Cape Cottage, Maine.

Memorial to Dr. George K. Rhodes.—A memorial to the late Dr. George K. Rhodes, professor of surgery on the San Francisco campus of the University of California, concerning whose death an obituary appeared in *CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE*, for September, 1944, p. 166, will be established by his friends, patients and former students, according to Dr. Glenn Bell, associate professor at the Medical School. At the time of his death, Dr. Rhodes was in Southern England, consulting surgeon of the Army's Southern Base Section. A

committee of arrangements headed by Dr. Bell will plan what form the memorial will take, depending upon the amount of money contributed.

Postgraduate Resident Training at Franklin Hospital.—Franklin Hospital of San Francisco announces that the Council on Medical Education and Hospitals of the American Medical Association has extended its approval to the Franklin Hospital for postgraduate resident training in internal medicine. The American Board of Internal Medicine has concurred in this action. Thus, Franklin Hospital is now approved for postgraduate training in general surgery, orthopedic surgery, neurological surgery, urology and internal medicine.

Bibliography of Industrial Hygiene.—The U. S. Public Health Service has recently brought off the press *Public Health Bulletin* No. 289, "Bibliography of Industrial Hygiene" to cover the years 1900-1943. The brochure is a selected list compiled by representatives of the Industrial Hygiene Division of the Bureau of State Services. Copies may be obtained at 20c per copy, from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C.

Change in Medicines with Passing Years.—The tremendous changes in drugs over the past 35 years are recalled in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. Selections made by a group of professors of medicine put penicillin, the sulfonamides and anti-biotics as the most important remedies developed since 1910. Other important remedies developed in that period include whole blood, blood plasma and blood derivatives; quinacrine (Atabrine); ether and other anesthetics; digitalis; arsphenamines; immunizing agents and specific antitoxins and vaccines; insulin and liver extract, other hormones and vitamins.

The ten most important drugs used in 1910 were listed by the *A.M.A. Journal* as: ether, morphine, digitalis, diphtheria antitoxin, smallpox vaccine, iron, quinine, iodine, alcohol and mercury.

Prizes for "A Plan for Improving Hospital Treatment of Psychiatric Patients."—The Modern Hospital Publishing Company, 919 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago (11), announces three prizes (first prize, \$500; second prize, \$350; third prize, \$150) for an essay on the subject, "A Plan for Improving Hospital Treatment of Psychiatric Patients." All essays should be addressed to the Modern Hospital Publishing Company prior to October 1st. Circulars of information concerning the competition may be obtained by writing to the editor of that publication.

Surgeons Told of New Serum.—Results of research work being carried on in this country and in Russia on a new serum to improve the health standard generally by stimulating the protective functions of the body were described on April 6 by Dr. Reuben Straus, Los Angeles pathologist, at the annual meeting of the Southern California Chapter, American College of Surgeons.

The serum, identified as "ACS," has been under investigation in Russia since 1924 and in clinical use there since 1937 but Dr. Straus said that in this country "our experimental work is far from complete and it would be unfair to make a statement of any sort now." He promised, however, a full report on the serum "when the evidence from our experiments is completed."

Anesthesia Discussed

More than 200 Southland surgeons assembled for the all-day sessions at the Los Angeles County Medical Association Building. The morning session featured a panel discussion of anesthesia, with Dr. Donald G. Tollefson, president of the chapter, presiding. Dr. Harold L. Thompson presided at the afternoon session, at which a number of papers on various surgical problems were presented.

At the dinner meeting, Dr. George Miller of Chicago, director of educational activities for the American College of Surgeons, told of plans to assist in providing postgraduate training for young doctors who have been in military service.

Press Clippings.—Some news items from the daily press on matters related to medical practice follow:

Just Plain Stupid: On Intern Training

The science department of *Time Magazine* recently published graphs illustrating a precipitous drop in the last few years in the number of Ph.D.'s granted by United States universities in four basic sciences. They were termed startling signposts on the road to "scientific bankruptcy." They reflect the shortsighted manpower policy of our government, the effects of which are already being felt seriously in the medical profession. The training of doctors has been reduced dangerously.

An unquestioned authority commenting on the inadequacy of present internship, states that: "Many institutions, in their desire to accede to the wishes of the Army and Navy, have arranged their internships so that an experience of no more than two or three months in surgery is obtained. According to the regulations, two-thirds of all the male interns—approximately 4,000—every nine months will enter active military service with, at the most, no more than a few months' experience in surgery. It is these eager but inadequately trained young officers who will serve at battalion aid stations, where the wounded are first brought and where expert surgical judgment is often needed."

No nation, if it wishes to lead the way toward a better civilization, can afford to neglect the sciences as we now are doing.—Editorial in *Campbell Press*, March 8.

They're the Country's Doctors

Standard Oil of California placed the following advertisement in the *San Francisco News* of April 23:

Take "Dr. A" of Okanogan. Last year he had a heart attack—a mean one. For anybody else his orders would be "Take it easy!" So he is working a 24-hour day and a 365-day year—and supervising a hospital besides.

Take "Dr. X" of Winthrop and "Dr. Y" of Brewster. They're pressing 80. Yet any "3 a.m." may find them wrestling pneumonia, racing the stork or watching a child's bedside—as they did in the horse-and-buggy days.

Thus, in wartime, the medical men of the West's smaller communities carry on as did the doctors of pioneer days—doing a marvelous best-they-can with what they've got.

We call them country doctors—as the most honorable of terms in the language. For—even though they practice with modern methods in modern towns—goodness gracious what a lot of country they cover!

Okanogan County is 5,295 square miles of Washington. Of the doctors left, just four have the football physique needed to absorb the punishment they're taking. And—oh, yes!—adjacent Ferry County no longer has a doctor. These four—and their selfless associates like Drs. "A," "X" and "Y"—must keep an eye on Ferry County, too.

We take Okanogan County because our branch manager, who seems to know everybody, suggested it. Any other nonurban county in a dozen western states can duplicate its heart-warming story.

Doctors have traditionally been known as hard workers. They've always taken care of everybody but themselves. So what we say won't change anything. But it's a satisfaction to recall, of every country doctor, something said by another. "Well done," it runs, "thou good and faithful servant."

Drug Discoveries

The medical profession was recently polled to determine what it considers the ten most important remedial agents now in use.